From: Joel
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: City Council Resolution re HP
Date: Friday, April 20, 2018 9:40:35 AM

Dear Council Member Simmons

I am writing with regard to the Council's consideration of a resolution regarding HP, although the true target of this resolution is the nation of Israel.

This resolution is part of the anti-Semitic BDS movement. It has NO place in my city. It stands as a symbol of hate. It hurts efforts to create a peaceful and diverse Middle East.

Singling out the SOLE nation with a Jewish majority, while ignoring worse behavior from most other nations, is anti-Semitic. I do not wish to live in such a community. Reverend Martin Luther King could not have been clearer: "When people criticize Zionists they mean Jews, you are talking anti-Semitism."

A boycott is most effective and vicious when used against a vulnerable minority. Jim Crow and the boycott of black Americans and the Nazi's boycott of Jews, are but two infamous examples.

It can be difficult to distinguish between countervailing allegations which rely on simple buzzwords without undertaking to understand the actual facts.

As a Cambridge resident I am particularly concerned about the manner in which this resolution has been raised: in the dark of night rather than an open debate and research. It appears primarily the work of outside interests and does not relate to the governance of our city. The resolution has NOT been made public until the last possible moment! How can this be the work of people interested in fairness and democracy.

I urge you to vote against this resolution and to condemn those who would try to sneak it before you.

Joel D. Lerner
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Sent from my iPad